

In the midst of this apparent stress, the Sauras departed from the Dan River Valley around 1710. The combined strain of disease and the continued threat of warfare from northern tribes likely necessitated the decision to join their Keyauwee and Eno relatives in present-day Randolph County. By 1715 this group, afterwards referred to as the Cheraw in most historical records, moved further south and settled on the Pee Dee River in South Carolina. However, the continued threat from northern tribes prompted this band to seek further refuge with the Catawbas during the 1730s.

Apparently the Sauras made attempts to remain independent within these alliances. Several reports mention that even after moving into the Catawba realm they claimed their own leadership and maintained their own traditions and dialect. Despite these attempts, a devastating smallpox epidemic struck the Catawba nation in 1759, no doubt affecting the Sauras as well. Remnants of the Saura tribe were still reported living among the Catawba as late as 1768, but their numbers were greatly reduced. After the American Revolution another smallpox epidemic spread through the Catawba region. Afterwards, references to the Saura as an independent tribe disappear.

By the time the first colonial settlers arrived in Stokes County, the Saura tribe had vanished from the Dan River Valley and was following a course that eventually led to cultural extinction. Today our knowledge of these people is based on a few historical references and the archeological evidence left behind in Piedmont soil. As new evidence is uncovered, perhaps our understanding of Saura craftsmanship, survival skill, and tradition will increase, and in the process we can add another chapter to the rich cultural heritage of the Stokes County region.